

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01354 070817Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1354

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E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 2
TAGS: CH, TW, US, UR, KS, NO

SUBJ: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER ON NORMALIZATION;, OTHER ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR ANDA HAD TWO HOUR MEETING JUNE 24 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA. ANDA DEPARTED ON HOME LEAVE A FEW DAYS LATER; THE NORWEGIAN CHARGE HAS BRIEFED US (APPARENTLY WITHOUT EXPLICIT AUTHORIZATION) ON PARTS OF ANDA'S REPORTING MESSAGE. OF MOST INTEREST, ANDA EVIDENTLY UNDERSTOOD HUANG TO INDICATE THAT PEKING WOULD BE PREPARED TO WAIT AS LONG AS 100 YEARS FOR NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS. WE QUESTION WHETHER HUANG WOULD HAVE SAID THIS, BUT IN ANY CASE HE EXPRESSED PATIENCE ON THE NORMALIZATION ISSUE, WHILE MAKING THE FAMILIAR POINT THAT THE US WOULD PAY A PRICE FOR DELAY. THE QUESTION, HUANG SAID, WAS WHETHER PRESIDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CARTER WOULD TAKE "SUBSTANTIAL MEASURES" TO BRING ABOUT NORMALIZATION. NOTING THERE WERE LIMITS ON US-PRC RELATIONS IN ABSENCE OF NORMALIZATION, HUANG HOWEVER INDICATED THAT TRADE COULD INCREASE.

2. HUANG PREDICTED THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN EUROPE IN "THREE TO FIVE YEARS OR MAYBE A LITTLE LATER".

ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE JUNE 25 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL CONCERNING US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR FOUND HUANG "COMPLETELY NON-COMMITTAL" ON AND UNWILLING TO TALK ABOUT THE STRATEGIC IMPACT OF THE WITHDRAWALS. BUT HUANG FIRMLY DENIED THAT CHINA HAD GIVEN THE US ANY PROMISE OR INDICATION OF "NON-INTERVENTION" IN KOREA. END SUMMARY.

3. THEREFOLLOWS BY TOPIC THE FULL CONTENT OF THE CHARGE'S BRIEFING. THE CHARGE HAD ONLY THE REPORTING MESSAGE TO DRAW ON; HE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE CONVERSATION AND DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH ANDA.

4. SINO-US RELATIONS.

HUANG: "THE KEY TO RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US IS THE TAIWAN PROBLEM. (HERE HUANG STATED THE USUAL THREE CONDITIONS). ONLY IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE MET CAN RELATIONS BE NORMALIZED. ALL RUMORS THAT CHINA COULD ACCEPT OTHER SOLUTIONS ARE COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS. AFTER NIXON'S VISIT IN 1972 THE US ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT TAIWAN IS CHINESE TERRITORY. PRESIDENTS FORD AND CARTER SAID THEY ADHERED TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. WE ARE HAPPY ABOUT THIS BUT AS LONG AS THE RELATIONSHIP IS NOT NORMALIZED, THERE WILL BE LIMITS ON THE SCOPE AND VARIETY OF RELATIONS. NONETHELESS, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
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AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS HAVE DEVELOPED IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION SINCE 1972. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO EXPAND TRADE FURTHER. NORMALIZATION CAN TAKE TIME. CHINA IS IN NO HURRY. LET'S ASSUME THE PROBLEM WILL STAY UNRESOLVED FOR 100 YEARS. BUT I THINK WE CAN SOLVE IT IN THE 101ST YEAR. AS LONG AS THE PROBLEM OF NORMALIZATION REMAINS UNRESOLVED, THE US DEBT TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE WILL BECOME LARGER AND LARGER. INTERNATIONALLY,

THE US WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE ISOLATED. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER WILL TAKE SUBSTANTIAL MEASURES TO SOLVE THE MATTER OF NORMALIZATION."

5. USLO COMMENT: POSSIBLY HUANG, LIKE SOME PRC SPOKESMEN A GOOD DEAL EARLIER, MEANT THAT IT MIGHT TAKE 100 YEARS TO ACHIEVE THE "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN -- A QUITE SEPARATE MATTER, IN THE PRC'S STANDARD PRESENTATION, FROM US-PRC NORMALIZATION. BUT HUANG'S REMARKS JUST BEFORE AND AFTER THIS ONE, AS REPORTED BY ANDA, STILL CONVEY A PHILOSOPHICAL PATIENCE TOWARD NORMALIZATION. SUCH PATIENCE, WHILE NOT A NEW THEME, IS NOT ONE WE HAD BEEN HEARING

IN RECENT MONTHS. IT THUS SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE CHINESE, FOR BOTH BARGAINING AND FACE-SAVING REASONS, ARE WILLING TO HAVE THE WORD GET AROUND THAT THEY ARE NOT COUNTING ON SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO PRODUCE PROGRESS ON NORMALIZATION. NED COMMENT.

6. US-SOVIET RIVALRY; PROSPECTS OF WAR.
TO STANDARD ELABORATION OF THE PRC LINE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE "FEINTING TO THE EAST TO ATTACK IN THE WEST" HUANG ADDED THE PREDICTION OF "WAR IN EUROPE IN THREE TO FIVE YEARS, MAYBE A LITTLE LATER".

7. USLO COMMENT: IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, THIS PREDICTION HAS A NOTABLY DIFFERENT TWIST FROM WHAT
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HUANG'S SUBORDINATE, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG, TOLD THE US YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS DELEGATION ON MAY 20; "I DON'T MEAN TO SAY (A NEW WORLD) WAR WILL BREAK OUT IN THE NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS, BUT THAT ..(SUPERPOWER) CONTENTION AND RIVALRY INEVITABLY WILL LEAD TO WAR".
END COMMENT.

8. KOREA. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED HUANG ABOUT THE EFFECT OF US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA ON THE REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER. HUANG OBSERVED THAT THE WITHDRAWALS WERE STILL BEING DEBATED IN WASHINGTON; THERE WAS NOT YET A FINAL "POLITICAL DECISION". HE STATED CATEGORICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT CHINA HAD GIVEN THE US SOME PROMISE OR INDICATION OF "NON-INTERVENTION" IN KOREA WERE GROUNDLESS. ANDA ADDED TO HIS SUMMARY OF THIS EXCHANGE THE COMMENT THAT HUANG WAS "COMPLETELY NONCOMMITTAL" ON THE QUESTION THE AMBASSADOR HAD RAISED AND CLEARLY DIDN'T WANT TO ALK ABOUT IT.
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